

Minutes from September 2, 2021 Meeting of the
Ashley Falls Historic District Commission
The meeting was held at the Bushnell Sage Library Program Room

In attendance: Sandra Preston, Lou Levine (chair), Phil Ghi, Sally MacKenzie, committee members; Catherine Miller - alternate member; Pat Levine, member of the public.

The meeting was called to order 4:32 pm by the chair, Lou Levine. Catherine was asked to serve as a voting member.

1. It was moved by Catherine and seconded by Phil that the minutes for August 21, 2021 be approved. Passed unanimously.
2. Report on recent activity:
 - i. Jerry Clements has withdrawn his application for window replacement and will re-apply with a new plan.
 - ii. Martin Mitsoff, selectman, met with the chair to discuss possible changes to the computer-based permitting system used by the building inspector that will assure no permits are issues for AFHD properties without the Commission's sign off.
3. Report on Certificates issued:
 - i. None were issued.
4. Review and possible action on applications received:
 - i. Lee Buttala of 26 School Street has applied for a permit to install solar panels on the south-facing roof of his house, which area cannot be seen from the public way. However, the accompanying electrical meters and related equipment will be on the north wall of the house, which is visible from School St. It was moved by Phil and seconded by Catherine that a Certificate of Non-applicability be granted with the condition that the electrical equipment be masked from view by non-deciduous plantings or fencing. If fencing is used, it must be approved by the Commission.
 - ii. Rafael de Cardenas of 1159 Ashley Falls Road has applied to install a patio with a low stone wall at the back of his property. The wall, of dry-laid stone, may be minimally visible from Ashley Falls Road. It was moved by Catherine and seconded by Phil that the applicant be granted a Certificate of Non-applicability. Passed unanimously.

There ensued a brief discussion on the role of the Commission – it was agreed that the Commission should focus on preserving the historic structures and general ambiance of the district, and that changes not involving historic structures or general ambiance, such as the one discussed in 4.ii should generally be approached by the Commission with a light hand.

5. The Commission decided to postpone the election of officers until the members had a better idea of the work involved in being chair and if there was an effective way to distribute the work. The chair will provide the Commission with a description of the tasks.

It was moved by Sally and seconded by Catherine to adjourn. Passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.